Vol. 13, No. 1





Photos by Kirsten Tacket

(Left) Senior Airman Chris Macadangdang, 154 AMXS and Senior Airman Ryan Santella, 15 AMXS inspect the C-17's nose landing gear during post- flight inspections.

(Above) Sergeant Wachi and Airman Ramos prepare the C-17 by positioning main landing gear door to the maintenance position.

# 15th AMXS globally engaged, mission ready

By Kirsten Tacker Kukini Photojournalist

As part of Hickam's new future total force, the 15th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron resides in the Consolidated Maintenance Complex.

Falling under the newly formed 15th Maintenance Group, the 15th AMXS' overall mission is to execute the flying sched-

As well as preparing for the arrival of the C-17s, executing their mission includes effectively integrating active duty, Air National Guard and Reservists, all a part of the 15th AMXS.

"Personally I've worked with Reservists before, so I know the rules," said Master Sgt. Richard Moody, 15th AMXS. "There are pretty distinctive lines too. Their leadership has been with our leadership since day one, so we know what those lines are."

history in the making for the Air Force and understanding the different protocols for each branch of service is just one aspect of the integration.

We've been able to incorporate both our schedules together with personnel and training," stated Sergeant Moody. "That is the most important thing for us, getting everyone trained while doing our regular jobs. I think we've been on top of that since day one."

Training has been particularly geared toward the upcoming arrival of the C-17's.

"What we've done with cooperation of the 735th Air Mobility Squadron is they've let us donate more than 30 servicemembers," said Lt. Col. Dan Wuchenich, 15th AMXS. "This way whenever a C-17 comes through, the 735th AMS has a responsibility too, my guys jump on it and are improving their C-17 skills."

In December two loaner C-17s came Combining inter-service operations is through Hickam, which gave them another

opportunity to sharpen their skills.

This gave Team Hickam the opportunity to work on our processes," said Colonel Wuchenich.

Even before the loaner aircraft arrived the unit problem solved regularly, sitting around the table tossing around "what if" scenarios. Trying to solve potential kinks in the process of maintaining C-17s as much as they could, fully aware that they couldn't come up with every effective solu-

"Nothing beats doing like doing," said Colonel Wuchenich. "Once we've done this a few times it becomes second nature. Now that we are all globally engaged together we have to work within the construct we're given to get the job done."

"I want to emphasize how important the 735th AMS has been to our preparation for the C-17s," he continued. "They've allowed us to embed maintainers in their organization. They've taken on the addi-

tional work of supporting visiting C-17s that have come in for operations and maintenance training prior to first aircraft, real MVPs on our team!"

This teamwork on Hickam will ultimately enhance the Pacific Theatre airlift. Staff Sergeant Raul Alafa represents the teamwork behind the support section of the squadron.

"We are constructing from scratch, with help from the Guard side of the house regarding how to set up," said Sergeant Alafa. "We have to set up everything so that we can actually function as a full unit. So these guys will have every resource that they possibly may need. If they can't get it from us they can get it from the Guard

Colonel Wuchenich's outlook for the unit's future is simple. "We end up figuring out this future total force so well, that everyone in the Air Force wants to come here to see how we do it.'

## Sgt. ensures return home for POW/MIAs

By 1st Lt Jim Ivie JPAC Public Affairs

believes he has the best assignment in months each year to Southeast Asia. spending his days in the heat and humidity hiking through the jungle, digging in the mud and dirt, and interviewing local citizens about their knowledge of events that happened nearly 40 years ago.

Sergeant Hoang is a Vietnamese linguist for the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command and what makes his assignment truly unique is the personal journey that led him here. His remarkable story begins with his birth in South Vietnam during the last days of the Vietnam War.

Shortly after the war ended, sergeant Hoang and his family moved to the southern tip of the country after his father, a captain in the South Vietnam army, was placed in a concentration camp. There, his mother struggled to raise him and his younger sister, with the help of an orphan girl the family adopted.

Worried that his son would be forced into the Vietnamese army when he turned 18, sergeant Hoang's father devised a plan from his prison cell for his son to escape the country. In 1982, on his ninth attempt at fleeing the country, eight-year-old Hoang

and his 17-year-old cousin set off on was a member of the Air Force. a boat from the southern tip of Vietnam with others attempting to grant to the U.S. is to get an education Air Force Staff Sgt. Van Hoang flee. They were picked up by a West and get a good job. They never think German ship and deposited at an about joining the military," sergeant the military. He deploys up to six Indonesian refugee camp. Hoang had Hoang said. "I guess I grew up differfinally made it to freedom, but his ordeal had just begun.

After spending one and a half years in the refugee camp, sergeant Hoang's application to immigrate to the United States was accepted. He and his cousin were picked up by a Catholic charity and brought to Boston, where they arrived June 23,

Sergeant Hoang recites the dates and events as if they happened yesterday. "I remember almost every single detail very vividly," he said.

Sergeant Hoang spent the remainder of his youth in Boston, moving between foster and group homes in the Massachusetts social services system. He moved 13 times in 10 years before graduating from high school.

His parents and sister came to the U.S. in 1992, aided by a program that eased immigration standards for former Vietnam War POWs, but by then he was grown and so never lived with

In 1995, sergeant Hoang happened to see a U.S. Air Force recruiting ad in the newspaper while scanning the classifieds for a job. He decided to call the recruiter. Two weeks later, he

"The normal mentality of an immiently

After basic training and attending his tech school training as a medic, he was sent to Tinker AFB, Okla. He soon met his future wife while at a birthday party for a friend in El Paso, Texas. They were married within six

"She said she married me because I was dedicated," he said. "I drove the 700 miles, one way, to see her every time I got the chance."

Sergeant Hoang got his U.S. citizenship in 1999 just before re-enlisting and then was transferred to Hanscom AFB, Mass. By 2002 he and his wife had three daughters.

After four years at Hanscom, sergeant Hoang was asked if he was willing to take an assignment at JPAC, not as a medic, but as a Vietnamese linguist, where he would make numerous deployments to his home country on missions to find and recover Americans missing from the Vietnam War. He jumped at the opportunity.

"I was nervous since I only had through a fourth grade education in Vietnam, but I had grown up speaking Vietnamese with friends and hanging out in the Vietnamese community," he



Photo by 1st Class Andrew Heuer

Army Maj. Charles Gatling, JPAC recovery team leader, and Staff Sgt. Van Hoang, JPAC Vietnamese linguist, examine possible human remains or artifacts found in a screening station during a March 2005 mission to Nghe An Province, Vietnam, to excavate a possible WWII burial site.

said. "But I was also excited. It had been more than 20 years since I had left."

Within a few weeks of arriving at JPAC, sergeant Hoang volunteered to go on his first mission. He departed for Vietnam April 15, 2004.

"I was seeing things for the first time again, seeing the life I could have had if I had not come to the U.S.," he said, "It was fascinating to see how it (Vietnam) had changed."

"I had a lot of mixed emotions, resentment of what I did to my family

(by leaving), but I know that what I did changed my life. I now have a beautiful wife and three daughters."

Sergeant Hoang said that the missions he has done in Vietnam have given him an even greater appreciation of the life he has.

"In the U.S., life is so different with the freedom we have. I feel that I am very blessed," he said. "You learn to appreciate what the United States stands for and what it represents. We a lot of times take things for granted

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#### Crossword Puzzle: In The Lead

#### By Capt. Tony Wickman Alaskan Command Public Affairs

#### **ACROSS**

- 1. Undersecretary of the Air Force Dr. Ronald M. (SAF/US)
- 5. Hold up
- 9. 2005 McConaughey movie
- 11. New York city section
- 13. Suspended chemical
- 14. Printing error
- 16. Scottish hillside
- 17. Active, energetic person
- 19. Monopoly purchases, in short
- 20. USA unit of differing MOSs
- 21. Elbow or head
- follower
- 23. Tepid 24. NY Giant Manning
- 26. Southern Asia peninsula

CLOSED Monday and Tuesday

#### Today, Thursday at 7 p.m. Saturday at 2 p.m.

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire - In his fourth year at Hogwarts, Harry faces his greatest challenges and dangers yet. When he is selected under mysterious circumstances as a contestant in the Triwizard Tournament, Harry must compete against the best young wizards from schools all over Europe. But as he prepares, signs begin to point to the return of Lord Voldemort. Before long, Harry is playing not just for the Cup, but for his life. Starring Daniel Radcliffe and Emma Watson.

Rated PG-13 for fantasy violence, frightening images.

#### Saturday, Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Walk the line - He picked cotton, sold door to door, and served in the Air Force. He was a voice of rebellion that changed the face of rock and roll. An outlaw before today's rebels were born - and an icon they would never forget. He did all this before turning 30. And his name was Johnny Cash. WALK THE LINE explores the early years of the music legend, an artist who transcended musical boundaries to touch people around the globe. As his music changed the world, Cash's own world was rocked by the woman who became the love of his life: June Carter. Starring Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon. Rated PG-13 for language, thematic material, drug use.

#### Sunday at 7 p.m.

**Derailed** – Advertising executive Charles is just another Chicago commuter who regularly catches the 8:43 A.M. train to work. But the one day he misses his train and meets Lucinda, his life is changed forever. Lucinda is charming, beautiful and seductive. Despite the fact that each are married with children, their attraction to one another is magnetic. Lunch dates quickly become cocktails after work. Strarring Clive Owen and Jennifer Aniston. Rated R for violence, language, and sexuality.

#### Give us your feedback



27. USAF aerial mission

28. Blue jeans

30. Vice Chief of Staff Gen. John D.W. \_\_\_

(AF/CV) 32. Kitchen measurement,

in short

33. Ump 34. Dishonest

37. Stopwatches

40. Director Howard

41. Actresses Kudrow and Bonet

43. Fishing technique

44. Otherwise

45. Billy Ray Cyrus song Breaky Heart

46. Taxing org.

48. Bumble or honey 49. Assist

51. Superhero comic 52. Northern Ireland

capital 56. Breakfast food

58. Proverbial haystack

59. Decorative ribbon 60. Votes in favor

61. Final

**DOWN** 

1. Marketable 2. 2000 Tony Award best

actress 3. Investigative arm of

Congress, in short

4. Dry

5. Prohibit

6. Mistake

7. Pie \_\_ mode

8. Cover the steps, again

9. Separated

10. Decorates

11. Brave 12. Chief Master Sergeant of the AF CMSgt Gerald

R.\_ (CMSAF)

13. NBC rival

15. USAF decoration 18. USAF org. concerned with bomb removal

22. New Zealand people 23. Ate greedily

25. Articulate

26. African antelope 29. USAF mission of UAVs

31. Sleep type 34. American sopran

Augér

35. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael (AF/CC)

36. Asst. Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Arthur J. \_ (AF/CVA)

37. Air Force Surgeon Gen. Lt. Gen. George

, Jr. (AF/SG) 38. Apparel

39. Branch out

42. Wayne movie Wore a Yellow Ribbon

44. Fade away

47. Lorne Michaels' NBC sitcom

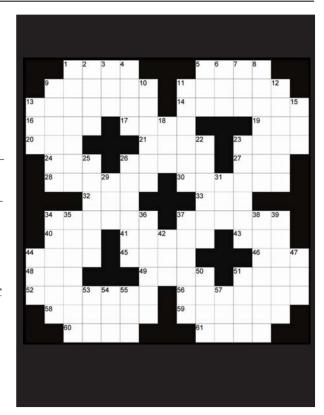
50. Beach item

51. Dec. holiday

53. Surcharge

54. Oklahoma town

55. Patrick AFB's 1st or 5th squadron, in short 57. Scheduling abbrev.



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### **Contraband**



Photo by Lt. Col. Kenneth Tingman

Col. Scott Chesnut, 15th Airlift Wing vice commander, joins the local band Contraband at a New Year Eve celebration. The vice and the band performed while bringing in 2006. Team Hickam can catch an acoustic Contraband performance Saturday at the Sand Bar and Grill from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**Tech Sgt. Carter Cort** 15th Communications Squadron

vide each individual and squadron the ability to communicate in so many different ways, from e-mail, radios, to phones and blackber-

My job affects all of Hickam in that: we provide Public Address for Change of Commands, Land Mobile radios and cell phones for almost every squadron including PACAF!

When not at work, I spend my off duty time: I spend my time playing football and basketball with my 6 year old son Hunter! I also coach Hunter's AYSO soccer team!



Something people do not know about 15 CS: People don't know that we also support the other PACAF bases as well as PACOM and CINCPAC Fleet!

If I could change one thing about Hickam it would be: I would try to get more bike and walking paths built so that we could get away from driving so much!

What the Supervisor has to say about TSgt Cort

"Carter Cort is one of the most energetic NCOs I've had the pleasure to work with. He pursues excellence with every task; on and off the job. I see him as the embodiment of our core values and the model for leadership we need today, tomorrow and beyond.'

MSgt E. Barron Dowdy, Jr. Superintendent, Mission Systems Flight

### **SOLUTIONS**, From B2



### **CHAPEL**

Editor's note: For more information on Base Chapel services or for prayer requests call the Chapel Center at 449-1754 or Nelles Chapel at 449-6562.

### Nelles Chapel Service 8:30 a.m.

11:15 a.m. 5:30 p.m. Chapel Center Sunday Traditional 8:30 a.m.

#### **JEWISH**

Aloha Jewish Chapel, Pearl Harbor 473-0050 Jewish Lay Leader Mr. David Bender 527-5877 Naval Station Chapel 473-3971

#### **CATHOLIC**

Nelles Chapel Weekday Mass 11:30 a.m. Saturday Confessions 4:15 p.m. Saturday Mass 5 p.m. Chapel Center

#### **ISLAMIC**

Friday Congregational Service (1935 Aleo Place, Punahou) 1 p.m. Muslim Association of Hawaii

Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin A Shin **Buddhist Temple** 536-7044

#### **ORTHODOX**

#### **PROTESTANT**

Sunday Contemporary Sunday Gospel Worship Sunday Praise Gathering

Sunday Mass 10 a.m. 947-6263

#### For more information, call 438-6687



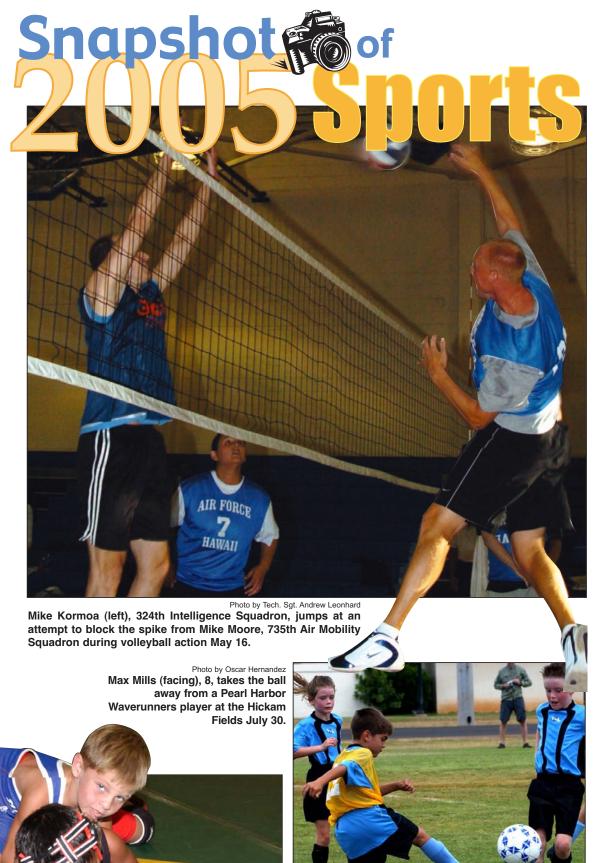


Hickam's Tre Gathers is met by a Wheeler defender during the second half action of the Aloha Basketball Tournament Championship game April 16.



Joe Sidlo, 352nd IOS, leaps to catch a throw to first base as Dave Okinishi, Hawaii Air National Guard tries to beat the throw during intramural softball action May 24.

Photo by Mark Bates Nicholas Gestring breaksdown and gains control his Leeward Cobra opponent in the first round of his gold medal winning day June 11. It was Hickam's inaugural freestyle wrestling tournament.



## **Sports Shorts**

**Sports writers –** The Kukini is looking for volunteers to cover sporting events around Hickam through the spring months of 2006. The staff will be short due to deployments and retirements and could use some people to take photos and write articles about sports games each week.

This will be a nonpaid position. If interested, call 449-6662 or send an email to hickam.kukini@hickam.af. mil.

#### Personal trainers -

Personal trainers are available by appointment only at the fitness center.

A personal trainer can assist people in formulating an exercise program to give them maximum results, as well as motivating them through that workout. Male and female trainers are available. For more information, call 448-2214.

## Commissaries can help customers keep New Year's resolutions

**By Bonnie Powell DECA Public Affairs** 

FORT LEE, Va. - Two New Year's resolutions usually found on everyone's list are "lose weight" and "eat healthy," but keeping them is the hard part. This year, adding a resolution to shop more at the commissary might help as the Defense Commissary Agency debuts a series of shelf signs featuring dietary tips. The signs are part of the ongoing "It's Your Choice, Make it Healthy" campaign.

"We want to be the nutritional leader of the military community," said Patrick B. Nixon, chief executive officer and acting director of DeCA. "Commissaries offer health and wellness products, fresh produce, lean meats and much more all at cost. And, one of the best ways to lose weight and eat healthy is to know what's in the products you're buying. You can't always do that in restaurants or the fast food drivethru, but you can do it by reading labels at the commissary."

The dietary tips, based on the new "Dietary Guidelines for Americans"

Services, are located where customers will find pizza and frozen entrees, juice, dairy, canned vegetables and fruits, oils and fats, cereals, bread, pasta, rice, canned meats, snack foods and dairy. A generic tip tells customers what "daily value' means on product labels.

'We're not trying to tell people what is good or bad for them," Nixon said. "We're just offering some 'food for thought' while they shop. And since we are very concerned about food safety, customers will also see tips on food handling, preparation and storage."

DeCA collaborated on the shelf signs with a Defense Department weight management integrated project team of dieticians, including representatives from the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Navy Environmental Health Center, the Air Force Medical Service, and the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventative Medicine. The signs are a model for the grocery industry.

awareness campaign addressing three major health problems identified by DoD. "Tobacco, alcohol, and obesity-related issues are leading causes of preventable death in the United States," said Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs. "Preventing these unhealthy behaviors is critical to the readiness of our forces and the health of our nation as a whole."

DeCA's partnership with TRI-CARE and the medical and nutrition community is intended to encourage military families to think more about using their commissary as a resource to help win the battle of the bulge. "Commissaries and medical benefits are consistently listed as the top military benefits," Nixon said. "Since we serve the same customer base, it makes sense to partner in our outreach efforts, both as an agency - and at the installation level."

DeCA is encouraging store directors at all 268 commissaries world-"It's Your Choice, Make it wide to partner with health and

from the U.S. departments of Healthy" ties in with TRICARE's wellness professionals for commis-Agriculture and Health and Human "Healthy Choices for Life," an sary tours and health and wellness events, particularly during National Nutrition Month in March and Commissary Awareness Month in May. "The shelf signs will make ideal tour stops," Nixon said.

The Defense Commissary Agency operates a worldwide chain of commissaries providing groceries to military personnel, retirees and their families in a safe and secure shopping environment. Authorized patrons purchase items at cost plus a 5-percent surcharge, which covers the costs of building new commissaries and modernizing existing ones. Shoppers save an average of 30 percent or more on their purchases compared to commercial prices - savings worth about \$2,700 annually for a family of four. A core military family support element, and a valued part of military pay and benefits, commissaries contribute to family readiness, enhance the quality of life for America's military and their families, and help recruit and retain the best and brightest men and women to serve their country.



#### Win Pro Bowl tickets

Weekdays from Jan. 2 -20, bowl during open bowling from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., except holidays, and receive a chance to win tickets to the Pro Bowl. Fill out one entry slip for each game bowled. A three-game series earns four entry-slips. Call the Bowling Center at 449-2702.

#### Wine Tasting

A free wine tasting is today from 5:30 to 6 p.m. in the Koa Lounge. Enjoy wine and great food. This event is for Officers' Club members only. Call 448-4608.

#### Teen Drivers Education instruction

Teen Drivers Education instruction will be held on Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. beginning tomorrow. This is a six-week class followed by six hours of behind-the-wheel instruction. Call the Community Center at 449-2361 to regis-

#### Link Up 2 Golf

Link up 2 Golf is held on Saturdays from 2:30 to 4 p.m., beginning tomorrow. The cost is \$99 per person for this introductory golf half-hour session. There is a and \$15 for non-members.

course. Register online by going to www.hickamservices.com, clicking on "golf" and then clicking on the playgolfamerica.com link. Class is limited to the first six students. Call Mamala Bay Golf Course at 449-6490.

#### Tailgate Sales

Tailgate Sales are tomorrow and Jan. 21 from 7 to 10 a.m. at the Burger King parking lot. End stalls are \$11; all other stalls are \$8. Call the Community Center at 449-2361.

#### Ka'ena Point hike

A hike to Ka'ena Point is on Sunday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost of \$20 per person includes transportation and two guides. Bring hiking shoes, lunch, water, hat, sunscreen and swimsuit. Call Outdoor Recreation at 449-5215.

#### Swim lesson registration at building 3455

Swim lesson registration is on Monday and Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Group classes, levels 1 - 6, held Wednesday – Friday for two weeks, beginning Jan. 11. The cost is \$60/person for children 3 years and up. Private lessons are held on Tuesdays from 3 to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 to 11 a.m. Cost is \$15 for each maximum of four lessons per Call person. Outdoor Recreation at 449-5215.

#### Little League Registration

Baseball, softball and tball registration for ages 5 -17 is Jan. 11 and 18 from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Community Center and Jan. 12 and 19 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Base Exchange. All registrants must have a current physical and birth certificate. Practice begins in March and the season begins in April. Call Youth Sports at 448-

#### Spoken Word Night

Spoken Word night is Jan. 13 from 9:30 p.m. to midnight in JR Rockers Lounge.

Grab the microphone and express yourself! No preregistration required.

#### Kids' Movie Night

A movie night for kids is on Jan. 13 from 6 to 11 p.m. at Kidsports. The cost of \$20 per child includes a movie, activities and dinner. Advance registration required. Call Kidsports at 448-6611.

#### Texas Hold 'Em

Texas Hold 'Em is Jan. 13 beginning at 7 p.m. in Officers' the Club Daedalian Room. This event is free for members

Reservations recommended. Call the Officers' Club at 448-4608.

#### Winter Abandoned Vehicle Auction

The Winter Abandoned Vehicle Auction is Jan. 13 from 8 a.m. to noon, on the corner of Kuntz Ave. and Hale Aka St. - next to Information, Tickets and Travel and Equipment Issue. More than 75 vehicles available! Vehicles will be available for viewing beginning Jan. 6. Call the Auto Hobby Center at 449-2554 for more information.

#### Spear Fishing 101 at **Pool** #2

A spear fishing workshop is Jan. 14 from 9 a.m. to noon. The cost of \$30 per person includes a demonstration of training and equipment given in the water. Must be 15 years or older and an accomplished swimmer to participate. Bring mask, fins and snorkel gear. Call Outdoor Recreation at 449-5215.

#### Dolphin and whale watch cruise

A dolphin and whale watch cruise is Jan. 14. Excursion includes transportation, a two-hour cruise and a snack. Call Information, Tickets and Travel at 448-2295 for time and price.

#### Scrapbook Club

The Scrapbook Club meets Jan. 14 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The cost is \$25 for half-day or \$30 for whole day of scrapbooking. Fee includes the use of cropping tools, handouts and pupus. Call the Community Center at 449-2361.

#### Bottom fishing in Hickam Harbor

A bottom fishing excursion in Hickam Harbor is Jan. 15 from 8 to 11 a.m. The cost of \$25 per person includes two guides, transportation by boat, fishing poles and bait. There is a maximum of eight participants per boat. Call Outdoor Recreation at 449-5215.

#### **Pre-Holiday Celebration**

A pre-holiday celebration at the Enlisted Club is Jan. 15. Two rooms of entertainment include Ol' Skool in the lounge, Hip Hop, Reggae and R&B in the ballroom. This event is FREE! A Soul Plate is available for purchase 11 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

#### Martin Luther King, Jr. Tournament

A golf tournament in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. is on Jan. 14 and Jan. 16. This is a 36-hole, two-person best-ball stroke play tournament. The cost is \$20 per team plus green fees.

Gross and net prizes will be awarded. Call Mamala Bay Golf Course at 449-6490.

#### Martin Luther King Jr. Scramble

A golf scramble is Jan. 16 at 1 p.m. The cost of \$25 per team includes green fees, prizes and hot dog burn. This is a nine-hole two-man scramble. Entry forms must be turned in by Jan. 13. This event is open to first 18 teams. Call Par 3 at 448-2318 for information.

#### Kidsports exciting news

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5 to 5:45 p.m., bring your tots down to Kidsports for Mini-Club and Tots Club. These classes, designed for toddlers ages 25 - 36 months, offer an opportunity for parents to spend quality time with their child after work. The cost is \$20 per month for one session per week or \$24 for two sessions per week. Advance registration required. Call Kidsports at 448-6611.

#### Golf on Lanai

Join Information, Tickets and Travel on Jan. 26 for golf on Lana'i. The cost of \$325 and up includes roundtrip airfare on a private jet and a round of golf at either Manele Bay or Koele Lodge. Call Information, Tickets and Travel at 448-2295.